

3-16-05



**OPINION PG. 3**  
**DRINKING AGE**  
 SHOULD THE DRINKING AGE  
 BE LOWERED? OUR  
 REPORTER SAYS NO.



**VALLEY LIFE PG. 4**  
**VALLEY SYMPHONY**  
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**SPORTS PG. 6**  
**MOVING ON UP**  
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**GALLERY PG. 8**  
**SPICE IT UP!**  
 SOCIAL DANCE CLASSES  
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# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 63, ISSUE No. 3

MARCH 16, 2005

It's YOUR NEWSPAPER

## Board Asks ASU President to Step Down

■ **Embattled Bagramian asked to resign by executive board's 8-1 vote.**

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS  
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During a highly charged meeting Tuesday, Valley College's Associated Student Union Executive Board voted 8 to 1 to request that ASU President Levon Bagramian resign from office.

"All year I've sat back and watched our chairman alienate people, taking away their initiative," said Ron Cabrera, commissioner of political affairs. "I don't appreciate the way I've been treated or the way [he] has treated everyone else."

After months of conflict between Bagramian and most of the executive board over various issues, the board decided on the vote. The board's action leaves Bagramian with the next

move. The ASU president told the Valley Star Tuesday night that he would most likely not resign at the next meeting on March 29.

"Jeesie and Ron didn't like me from the first day I was declared winner," Bagramian said. "They were talking about impeachment two hours after election results were announced. If they're looking for someone to blame they should look in the mirror."

Bagramian added that he has done his job and that the students who elected him wouldn't want him to resign.

Voters elected Bagramian last year on his promise to improve counseling services for students. Many say he has failed

see ASU page 7



RETURN FIRE - ASU President Levon Bagramian answers board members' vote to request his resignation.

CYNTHIA PERRY / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

## Non-Residents Pay More

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY  
 VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

This year, Valley College non-resident students are paying \$164 per unit; that's more than six times the \$26 fee that resident students pay.

"I felt trapped and scared, I didn't know what to do," said Jose Lopez whose name has been changed to protect his identity. Lopez, a non-resident student at Valley, said he was discouraged when he realized he couldn't afford the cost of a higher education.

In 1991, Lopez moved with his family from Zacatecas, Mexico. He started seventh grade in the United States and in 1996, graduated from North Hollywood High School. Lopez said his hopes of attending university faded when he saw the cost of tuition. He soon learned that his citizenship status made him ineligible for scholarships. As doors closed, Lopez stopped

see Residents page 7

## Student Apathy at Polls

■ **LA's mayoral election draws attention from few students.**

BY H.M. MONTES DE OCA  
 SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Conspicuously absent from lapels on campus March 8 were the little red, white and blue stickers that announce to all who pass, "I Voted!" Valley College students mirrored the dismal citywide turnout for the mayoral primary election, as an informal poll by the Star revealed only 18 percent of eligible voters chose to go to the polls. According to city election officials, only 22 percent of those who registered voted, despite the candidates spending millions on television spots and touring the city non-stop.

The 82 percent of students who did not vote cited reasons ranging from "too busy" to "didn't care." These responses are not surprising when considering the low 27 percent turnout of the last primary election in April 2001.

"In this particular election, there wasn't an intensely contested proposition to attract voters," said Anthony O'Regan, professor of political science at Valley. According to election officials, the turnout in Los Angeles County for the acrimonious November election was 79 percent, which seems to lend weight to the theory that conflict attracts voters.

The candidates in the race for mayor were as different as the reasons mentioned by the

see Polls page 7

## High School Riot Closes Child Development Center

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS  
 AND TIFFANY FARMAKIS  
 EDITORS

A brawl at Grant High School forced a lockdown of Valley College's Child Development Center, across the street from Grant, sending four students, two high school faculty members and an LAPD officer to the hospital for minor injuries.

"The fight was very horrible," said 15-year-old Grant freshman Mary Kirishyan. "All you saw was trash cans flying in the air and everyone running around, it was very scary."

Grant was under total lockdown for three hours after the noontime fight between Armenian and Hispanic students erupted into a full-blown riot involving 200-400 students, according to Deputy Police Chief Larry Manion.

"Faculty and school administration did a superb job assisting. We were very happy it ended peacefully," said Manion.

"The worst injury was when one police officer got hit on the head with a golf ball."

The Child Development Center, located off Ethel Avenue at the northeast end of Valley, is only yards away from the high school. Police notified Terry Teplin, director of the Center, to keep all children inside while campus police patrolled the college's perimeter. Up to 72 children from preschool to 12 years old were at the Center at the time of the lockdown.

"The preschoolers don't know what's going on, but we've explained to the [older] children that some high school students got into a fight and we are staying inside for safety," Teplin said. "The police officers and firemen have been coming in to talk with the children."

The Child Development Center provides child-care for student-parents while they attend classes. The center has a well-rounded program for preschool to school-aged kids and

includes many different in-door and out-door group activities.

"We called campus police around 12:30 because we heard helicopters and we were concerned," Teplin said.

She was directed to the LAPD, which instructed a lockdown. Children were escorted outside once their parents arrived, with the last of the children not being picked up until 10:20 p.m.

While Valley parents arrived to pick up their children from the Center, the parents of Grant students were asked to wait outside until students were released.

Hellen Hakopart whose 16-year-old sister Christine is a sophomore at Grant said she was waiting for an hour for police to let her sister out.

"We don't know what's going on. I don't know if my sister was involved or if she's OK."

Several Grant students have indicated that racial tensions have been an ongoing problem for the high school, which

has a student body of 68 percent Hispanic and 23 percent Armenian students, according to Valley's Fact Book and Effectiveness Manual.

Melania Castillo, a 14-year-old freshman, said that the fight started when "the Armenians hit a 14-year-old girl in the face

see Lockdown page 7



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

DANGEROUS SCHOOL DAY- Officer Jefferson ordered unwilling Grant High School senior, William Chavarria, to go home after last week's fight.

## Banding Together in Support

■ **Wristbands raise awareness and funds for popular causes.**

BY HANS CARDENAS  
 SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Wrapped around wrists of Valley College students, celebrities, disease survivors and those who just want to show support, the rubber bracelet fad is creating a buzz. People sport wristbands of every color, each representing a different cause.

"I would definitely wear one because I would want to support any loved one that was going through a rough time," said Valley student Christine Alvarez.

The most popular of the bracelets, the yellow LIVESTRONG band to support cancer research,

has sold more than 40 million since the product's launch. Testicular cancer survivor, Lance Armstrong, began endorsing the LIVESTRONG bracelets through his foundation in partnership with Nike.

Since then, various other bands in different colors are raising awareness for other causes, making it easy for people to select the right band to match their ideology, their outfit, or both.

There's the pink bracelet sold to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer. Then there's the red band to benefit AIDS charities; blue for Autism; blue and

white for tsunami relief efforts and purple for Alzheimer's disease. But wait, there's more: Dark green is sported to show support for the American troops; black and white promotes anti-racism and orange represents a commitment to remain smoke-free. The list goes on. A black version inscribed with the words "party crasher" is just one of the many parody bracelets available.

Valley student Rudy Lindayag says she is willing to get on the bandwagon. "I would buy one to help the charities, but I wouldn't wear it because it's not my style."



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

WRIST OF MANY COLORS - Going strong, the trend is growing.



## NEWS REEL

## TRADE LIMITS:

The 30-year world trade limit on textile imports ended earlier this month, in response to the 1,000 percent increase of Chinese imports that have crippled the U.S. job market.

## BANKRUPTCY:

Senate passed a bankruptcy law last week making it harder for Americans to delete their debts. People who would normally file for Chapter 7 will be forced to file Chapter 13, follow a repayment plan and attend credit counseling.

## MILITARY:

The Pentagon has begun reassessing operations in Iraq, aiming for more efficiency. With more than 145,000 troops in Iraq, the threat of possible actions in North Korea and Iran have added stress to United States military efforts.

## LEGAL RIGHTS:

A judge ruled Monday that California's ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional that if upheld on appeal, would open the way for the most populous state to follow Massachusetts in allowing same-sex couples to wed.

## CAMPUS EYE

## BLOOD DRIVE:

Wednesday, March 17, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at North Gym.

## BREEZE LA - LITTLE BIG BAND:

Thursday, March 17, 11:30 a.m. at Music Room 112.

## VALLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:

Sunday March 20, 5 p.m. at Music Recital Hall.

## GRADUATION DEADLINE:

Deadline to petition for spring 2005 graduation is 4 p.m. Friday, March 18. Petitions are available in the administration building, room 127.

## THINK TRANSFER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CAREER TRANSFER CENTER AT (818) 947-2646

## CAREER PLANNING WORKSHOP:

Thursday, March 17, 1 p.m. and Tuesday March 22, 5:30 p.m. at Administration 126.

## USC COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP:

Tuesday, March 29, 1 p.m. in foreign language building room 106

## CAREER/TRANSFER CENTER REPRESENTATIVE VISITS:

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES: Wednesday, March 16, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Monarch Square.

## UNIVERSITY OF WEST LOS ANGELES:

Wednesday, March 30, 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at Administration 126.

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES AND CSUN:

Monday, March 28, 5 to 7 p.m. and Tuesday, March 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Administration 126.

## CSU DOMINGUEZ HILLS:

Thursday, March 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Monarch Square

## CAL STATE LA:

Thursday, March 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at Administration 126.

## FASHION INSTITUTE OF DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING:

Monday, March 28, 10 a.m. to 1:30p.m. at Administration 126.



**ACHIEVEMENTS-** Journalism Department Chair Rod Lyons presents French professor Paul Harper with an award in honor of his contributions in equal opportunity hiring.

## Honors Embrace Diversity

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College faculty members received awards and Paul Harper, associate professor of French, was the special honoree at an Equal Opportunity Committee hiring procedures workshop Thursday, March 3.

Thirty equal-opportunity representatives were presented with certificates in recognition of their valuable contributions with various committee members in attendance at a luncheon at Valley's Cateria Conference Room.

"I'm pleased that so many members were here to take part," said Dr. Tyree Wieder, Valley College president. Wieder presented a special award to Paul Harper and said he was "one of our illustrious members; a mainstay on campus."

Rod Lyons, journalism department chair, moderated the three-part seminar to highlight different aspects of hiring.

"It's the subtle acts that are very important. A lot goes into making sure to protect each applicant so that the process is fair and equal," said Lyons.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Carlie Tronto explained the procedures of the classified and certificated hiring process.

"It's a very good experience. We get to meet other faculty members and understand how the process works," said Tronto.

"The focus is on achievement in diversity," said Tino Manzano, dean of enrollment management.

Harper accepted his award honoring his contributions and held the trophy up high for everyone to see.

"[This is] indeed a surprise for me," said Harper. He summed up what the award meant to him by saying "In a word: appreciation."

Harper says he feels that diversity does not mean ethnicity alone. "I advocate an embracing of different cultures and the opening of the mind."

## De Sanctis Says Farewell Today

■ Valley's Naturalist is retiring from her position but not from the campus.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS  
DESIGN EDITOR

For 12 years, Robin De Sanctis has been helping faculty members fine tune the nuts and bolts of their positions. Today, she's handing in her wrench and picking up her binoculars. De Sanctis, Valley's admissions and records assistant, is retiring.

"People know me around here for wearing binoculars and watching the birds and butterflies," said De Sanctis, a naturalist and avid bird watcher since 1991. "This campus is fabulous for bird watching. I've identified over 30 different species of birds here."

Jeanne Rubin, executive assistant to the president, has always admired De Sanctis' patience in her job and her love of observing the wild

life on campus.

"I've seen her standing on the lawn of the administration building with butterflies perched on her hand," said Rubin. "It's amazing that she really has the patience to stand so still."

De Sanctis' not only enjoyed her leisure time on campus but treasured her time working with the 650 faculty members at Valley.

"My experiences at the college have been absolutely

wonderful," said De Sanctis. "I've become very close with the faculty and staff. It's really a home away from home."

De Sanctis admits she will miss Valley, but according to Rubin, the college will miss her much more.

"She's an exceptional employee, unfailingly professional and thorough," said Rubin. "We're really going to miss her and the butterflies."

To celebrate De Sanctis' departure, a luncheon will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in the fireside room on Wednesday, March 30.

Those interested in attending can contact Veronica Mosqueda at admissions and records to RSVP by March 18. \$12 is requested to cover costs of the luncheon.

"It's time for me to move on and spend some quality time with my grandchildren and husband," said De Sanctis. "But I'll come back to the campus every Saturday with my binoculars."



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR  
**IT'S ONLY NATURAL-** Valley College will fondly miss retiree and naturalist Robin De Sanctis.

## CAMPUS CRIME

## Student Gets an Unwanted Lewd Show in Parking Lot D

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS  
DESIGN EDITOR

## Indecent Exposure

One male suspect was looking for more than directions when he approached a female student in Parking Lot D March 7.

The victim reported to campus police that while sitting in her car, around 8:30 a.m. she was approached several times by an individual who made lewd comments to her.

According to the victim, although she refused his advances,

the suspect proceeded to play with and expose himself.

After his show, the suspect made his way north toward Oxnard Boulevard.

Police reports state that the suspect is still at large. He is described as a white male between 20 and 25, wearing a blue turtleneck and glasses.

## Graffiti

Several more tagging incidents have been reported throughout campus.

Bungalow 42 was reported as being the most recent vic-

tim, when a vandal defaced the buildings side with the words "themes," "Menek," "Ler," and "Dack" in blue and black ink sometime between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. March 12.

Two more incidents were reported, when employees discovered that the Coldwater extension wall and the northeast and northwest concession stands were smeared with paint and ink.

According to campus police, the suspects remain at large.

## Petty Theft

A thief made off with \$30 from

a south gym employee on March 9, between 9:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The victim reported that she noticed the money missing from her purse after providing a male individual with job information.

According to the victim, she noticed the possible suspect snooping around her desk. She then confronted the individual and provided him with the necessary information.

A description of the suspect was provided to campus police, however reports maintain there are no official suspects.

## "Parent and Baby" Program is a Success

■ Campus program has goal to educate student-parents and interns.

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Coos and laughter echo down the halls of Valley College's Math/Science building every Friday. The child development department's "Parent and Baby" program brings parents, infants and student-interns together to give parents an opportunity to compare their children's progress, while also giving child development students hands-on experience.

"This program gives not only student-parents, but outside parents the opportunity to socialize, trade

month-old Micah. "And [Micah] would never see other children if not for this program."

Bardeau, who is not a Valley student, heard about the program through Valley student Natacha Smallwood, mother of 4-month-old Ibrahim.

"I'm a stay-at-home mom," said Smallwood. "Getting out of the house and getting to talk to adults is great."

"Parent and Baby" meets 1:30 p.m. Fridays in Math/Science 110. For more information, call Marni Roosevelt at 818-947-5529.



CYNTHIA PERRY/SPECIAL TO THE STAR  
**HAVE A BALL-** Kylie Gagnon tries to juggle too many balls at once at the weekly "Parent 'N' Baby" meeting.

tips and talk to other parents," said program director Marni Roosevelt.

The program, which welcomes parents with babies up to 18 months old, is new to Valley this semester, and Roosevelt hopes to expand the program to a second class encompassing toddlers.

"Parent and Baby" teaches participants how to be moms, according to Roosevelt. "It's not like you have a baby and know exactly how to do everything."

While Valley's Child Development Center also offers child care, Roosevelt says "Parent and Baby" differs from the Center in two ways: "This program is out-fitted for babies while [the Center] starts with preschool age. Also, here the parents stay with the children and interact with the other children."

The program includes four student-interns.

"The hands-on experience is invaluable," said student-intern Shevonne Durkin. "It's a lot different reading something than actually doing it."

Roosevelt said that she didn't want to exclude non-students from the program because some parents aren't able to attend class because they are spending their time as a stay-at-home parent, but may later want to enroll at Valley.

"I think it's great to be able to get advice from other moms," said Cathy Bardeau, mother of 5-

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# OPINION

3

## Should Bagramian Stay or Should He Go?

■ Opponents want to see Levon on a jet plane.

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

When the majority of the members of the Associated Student Union call for their president to resign, those voices carry a lot of power.

The emotionally charged accusations that flew across

the table between Bagramian and the board brought shouts of, "You're out

of order!" from both sides and the sudden resignation of the board's parliamentarian, Chase Knowles. Eight of nine people voted in favor of giving Bagramian the boot with a vote of "no confidence."

When it was all over but the shouting what side was right? When that many people are shouting for the same cause, one thing is clear: You'd better listen, Bagramian.

The ASU council members who voted against Bagramian feel that he is not performing his duties and that he needs to step down.

Bagramian's responded by stating that he cared more about the 350 votes he received in last year's election, but as one of his opponents said, he should represent the entire student body—that's more than 18,000 students.

The same student body he

**"The success of the committee depends on the chair's ability to lead."**

- Jessie Salas, Vice President

promised to work for in his campaign platform. A platform that was built on reforming Valley College's counseling department. A move that Dr. Bruce Thomas, chair of the counseling department calls, "risky business."

"[It's a] very bold statement to 'make it his mission' to improve our counseling system," said Thomas.

To be fair, Bagramian's opponents called the question before he had an opportunity to respond to the charges against

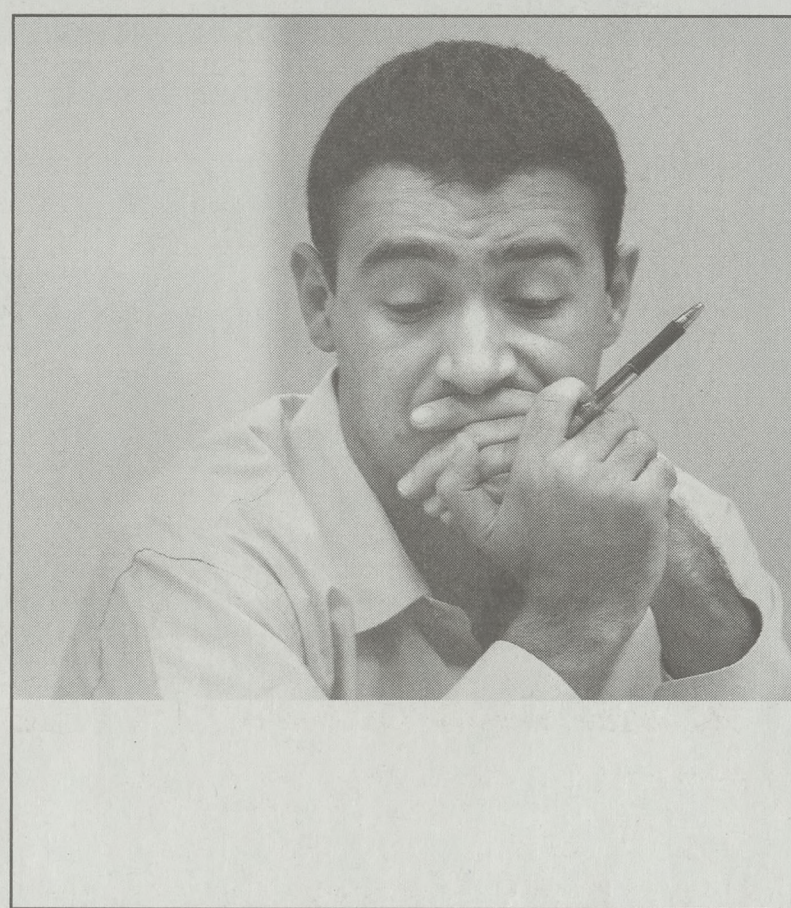
him, using a parliamentary trick to silence his defense. And those "charges" lacked any kind of authority; there was no documentation proving any wrongdoing on his part and he is certainly not the first ASU president to fail to deliver on his campaign pledges.

But although the ugly meeting resembled a mob of crazed, torch-bearing villagers, even the mob's voice should be heard. Bagramian's main fault may be failing to listen to his detractors ... which may be enough to make him an ineffective leader.

"The success of the committee depends on the chair's ability to lead," Jessie Salas, ASU vice-president said.

The "no confidence" vote cannot force him from office—that's up to him—but if the student government is paralyzed, what's the point in maintaining the status quo?

Neither side seems to be listening to the other. But if there's going to be any solution to this impasse, short of a lynching by Robert's Rules of Order, Bagramian had better start the process by listening up.



CYNTHIA PERRY / VALLEY STAR

**UNDER PRESSURE** - Should ASU President Levon Bagramian bow to pressure from the board or should he give 'em hell?

## The Many Words of Wisdom

■ Politics and religion need to be separate.

BY KATHY ARELLANO  
OPINION EDITOR

Proponents say the presence of the Ten Commandments in government buildings is part of the nation's God-endorsed legislative heritage and should stand in courts as a reminder of the moral laws therein, but there's no denying that other religious symbols also impart messages of justice, knowledge, balance, compassion and wisdom.

But should they be displayed in government buildings?

Why not? If voters want to mix church and state, then the Chief Justices need to pass a law allowing equal space for all recognized representations of the religious freedom Americans enjoy.

Justice John P. Stevens can display a silk wall hanging on which the graceful calligraphy of Shinto has been embroidered and he can light the flaming chalice of Unitarian Universalism before each case is heard.

Justice Ruth Ginsberg could make room for a colorful Buddhist lotus blossom poster on the wall behind her desk.

Maybe she could arrange a collection of Hinduism's beautiful bronze god-and-goddess statues atop the railing of the jury box.

For good measure, witnesses will have to swear on not only the

Bible, but also on the Bhagavad-Gita, the Egyptian Book of the Dead, the Zen Texts and other revered tomes.

The pledge of allegiance will have to be amended, too.

In the hallways will hang the black and white yin-yang orb of Taoism calming nervous defendants, while an authentic medicine shield of Native American spirituality will remind passers-by of the spiritual heritage that existed in this country before the founding fathers arrived.

Each religion will be fairly represented when the prayer is recited at the start of most, if not all governmental meetings.

Federal buildings will have an eclectic look. Visitors and employees will have an opportunity to study the symbols that now share the space with The Big Ten as they move through the hallways or consult with their lawyers in the courtrooms.

Doesn't sound too comfortable, does it?

It's like serving crème Brûlée and sashimi on the same

little plate. They shouldn't be together - ever.

Separation of church and state is a vital cornerstone of religious liberty, which guarantees each person the freedom of choice about their spiritual life.

Something so personal should not be mixed up with government in a pot like so much jambalaya.



ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

## Age Is More Than Just A Number

■ Good judgment and maturity don't just happen. Sometimes they just don't happen.

BY LYNDSEY PHILLIPS  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

There are few ages that our society collectively looks forward to. At 16, it's a driver's license; at 18, there are cigarettes and voting; and at 21, it's the biggie - legal drinking age. After that, it's a long way to the next batch of appreciated but depressing perks like senior discounts and social security.

Underage drinking is a big problem on many levels, affecting not only the individual, but families, the health care industry, birth rates and the nation's work force.

It has been proven that young people who drink regularly lose the ability to retain new information; they are more likely to develop an addiction to alcohol, which can lead to liver and heart disease; pregnant women often give birth to infants suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome and other birth defects directly related to prenatal exposure to alcohol.

In Europe, the minimum legal drinking age is somewhere between nonexistent and 18. In France, for example, youth can drink at 16 but can't drive until 18. The legal blood alcohol limit there is 0.05 compared to the U. S. limit of 0.08, resulting in more arrests of individuals who could have caused an accident

had they not been apprehended.

Even when sober young drivers are more accident-prone than older, more experienced drivers, according to the Institute of Alcohol Studies' online fact sheet.

Their lower tolerance to alcohol further increases their accident risk. Nine out of 10 drunk drivers are male and 10 percent of those are under 21.

In the Czech Republic the legal blood alcohol limit is 0.00 but the problem is not necessarily with drunk drivers.

With beer costing less than soft drinks in Prague, there is a growing alcohol addiction among children as young as 10, according to Drug Addiction News online.

This is, in part, due to insufficient law enforcement and poor control over the sale of alcohol

to such an extent that local government had to create a children's detox center.

Most American alcohol manufacturers side with teenagers when it comes to talk about lowering the legal drinking age. But does the general public really want to unleash hormone-ravaged, inexperienced and inebriated young drivers onto the nation's highways. I don't think so.

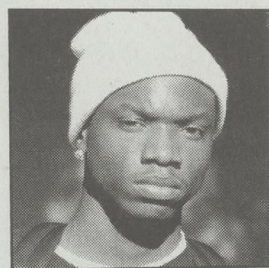
Another big issue in this fight is the conflict between young men and women serving in the military at 18 but not being able to drink until 21.

Maybe the drinking age isn't the thing that needs an adjustment.

## Campus View

**Should the legal drinking age be changed from 21 to 18?**

PHOTOS BY  
DANIEL VILLASENOR

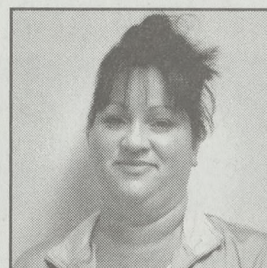


"People right now at 21 have accidents. If younger people are drinking, it'll be crazy."

MARQUIS POWELL, 18,  
KINESTHETICS

"Yeah, because people drink anyway. If they start at 18 maybe by 21 it won't seem like a big deal."

MARIA KESHISHYAN, 22,  
PSYCHOLOGY

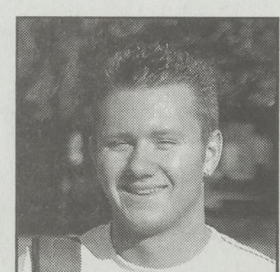


"No, 18-year-olds are not mature enough to handle the responsibility of the effect of alcohol."

CONNIE CARBAJAL, 39,  
ADMINISTRATION OF  
JUSTICE

"Young people are not responsible. They get in accidents with or without alcohol."

CHARLES  
CHEZICK-COWEN, 23,  
WORLD HISTORY



## Let's Make Suicide a Capital Offense

■ It's painless, but it brings on many changes.

BY SUSAN MALTBY  
NEWS EDITOR

Life is nothing if not an endless abundance of choices. By nature, free will is what separates humans from all other living creatures.

People can choose between paper and plastic, Coke or Pepsi and when it comes to their very existence, everyone is born with the choice to live or die. With life's more serious choices come clashes with legal and moral codes as defined by one's particular society and culture.

Recent right-to-die debates in America, sparked by the Florida court case between Terri Schiavo's husband and parents over whether to remove the brain-damaged woman's feeding tube, center on one main legal question: Should this nation or its states give citizens a legal right to die?

The question itself is pointless. There is no arguable reason to adjust the legal system of any country to advocate death for its people under any circumstances. In most industrialized nations including this one, citizens already have the right to refuse medical treatment. People can simply make their wishes known with a "Do Not Resuscitate" order and make it clear to caregivers and family members that they refuse feeding tubes or other life-sustaining procedures. Done and done.

People who do not outline any measures in advance to expedite their departure from this realm are choosing life by default, no matter how hopeless, helpless or heartless that life may be.

The legal system and medical community can't, by definition, advocate and approve of death. Right-to-die lobbyists are therefore asking for an impossible hypocrisy.

Inculcating society with the idea that government and the health care industry need to take a stand, lobbyists argue with emotion and pomposity that their debate is profoundly important, involving the value of life, the meaning of compassion and the proper balance that state law should strike between personal autonomy and protecting lives.

The truth is their point is moot. When it comes to protecting lives, there's no balance - society either does or it doesn't.

Physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia are unnecessary and the costs of addressing the issue within the legal system will cost a lot more than a jug of Jack Daniel's and a six-pack of Somnux.

Why would someone care whether suicide is legal? Perhaps family members don't want to lose out on a life insurance policy. Lobbyists should instead argue with insurers to gain benefits in cases where terminally ill, mentally competent adults with less than six months to live wish to end their own lives without causing their family undue financial hardship.

There is no need to create laws to legalize suicide. People who truly wish to end their lives for whatever reason can already do so privately without repercussion.

After all, choosing to end your own life can only be followed by one possible worldly consequence: Death.



## WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, March 16

**Alicia Keys**  
Kodak Theatre  
also March 17

Thursday, March 17

**BreezeLA--Little Big Band**  
Mike Julian, Director  
Music room 112, 11:30a.m.  
Admission is Free

**Downtown Los Angeles St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
11:30a.m.  
Pershing Square  
W. Fifth St. and Olive St.  
310-537-4240

**Art Share Los Angeles**  
St. Pat's Day Reception & Art Exhibit  
7 p.m.-11 p.m.  
Featured Artists: Antiba Azikiwe, Dale Hall, George Stiehl, Jaha Zainabu, Anda Leeb  
801 E. 4th Place

Friday, March 18

**"The Ring Two"**  
Film Release  
Naomi Watts  
Dir: Hideo Nakata  
Horror/Thriller

**"Ice Princess"**  
Film Release  
Joan Cusack, Kim Cattrall  
Dir: Tim Frywell  
Comedy

**Joe Cocker**  
8p.m.  
Wiltern LG  
\$30-\$50

Saturday, March 19

**The Young Dubliners**  
8 p.m.  
House of Blues, Sunset  
\$20

Sunday, March 20

**Los Angeles Master Chorale**  
Water Passion After St. Matthew  
Grant Gershon Conducts  
Walt Disney Concert Hall  
\$19-\$79

Tuesday, March 22

**Savion Glover's Improvography**  
March 22 thru 26  
Kodak Theatre  
\$25-\$58

Wednesday, March 23

**Motley Crue**  
The Forum  
\$38.50-\$73.50

Thursday, March 24

**"Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous"**  
Film Release  
Sandra Bullock  
Dir: John Pasquin

**"Guess Who?"**

Film Release  
Bernie Mac, Ashton Kutcher  
Dir: Kevin Rodney Sullivan  
Comedy

Saturday, March 26

**Elvis Costello and The Imposters**  
8 p.m.  
Wiltern LG  
\$45-\$65

**Ash**  
7:30 p.m.  
Trobador  
\$13

Tuesday, March 29

**Atreyu**  
6 p.m.  
House of Blues, Sunset  
\$15.50

## Virtuosity Abounds: Pianist Wows Audience



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR  
**VALLEY'S HIDDEN TREASURE** - Accompanist Hae-Sun Pope performed with the Valley Symphony Orchestra at Saturday night's season opener.

BY KATHY ARELLANO  
OPINION EDITOR

In a burgundy-bejeweled gown, Hae-Sun Pope effortlessly transported her audience aloft on the wings of Franz Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E flat major, accompanied by the nearly 60-member Valley Symphony Orchestra in "Virtuosity," the symphony's first concert of the season at Valley College's Mainstage Theater, Saturday.

Pope, widely known at Valley for her quiet demeanor and patient, perfect piano support for vocal classes, is a class-of-'75 Valley alumnus now completing her Master of Music degree at Cal State Northridge.

The evening opened with Hungarian Fantasy No. 2, a romantic body of music familiar to many, wearing Liszt's thematic trademark of innovative, romantic movements, spiced with a liberal dose of folk music elements. The orchestra flawlessly executed the sudden mood changes from sensual to raucous and demonstrated a professional-level mastery.

The final element of the concert was Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 in B flat major, Opus 100, a dramatic symphony and one of the major orchestral pieces of the

20th century, which carried the enthusiastic audience on a turbulent ride through sometimes unconventional, powerful movements.

Concertgoers can look forward to two more exciting symphonies this season.

The first is a celebration of the music of Beethoven and Brahms entitled, "Two Killer B's" and which features VSO's concertmaster Sharon Cooper and conductor Robert Chauls, along with L.A. Philharmonic cellist Stephen Custer. This chamber music concert is scheduled for April 10 at 5 p.m.

"Happy Birthday Brahms" will be the final event in the VSO series, featuring L.A. Philharmonic violinist Mitchell Newmann and is scheduled for May 8.

Watch for more concert information, including ticket details, in upcoming issues of The Valley Star's Valley Life section.

*NOTE: The Spring 2005 Concert Series Schedule has the wrong date for the next chamber music concert. The actual date is Sunday, April 10 at 5 p.m.*

## The Saint Behind The Holiday

■ **St. Patrick's Day is more than just a day of green beer and shenanigans.**

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

St. Patrick's Day isn't just a drinking holiday. The holy man's story is one of inspiration to 34 million U.S. citizens claiming Irish ancestry, especially the practicing Catholics among them ... although St. Patrick himself was neither Irish nor Catholic.

One of Christianity's most widely known figures, St. Patrick was born in Wales AD 385, where he grew up a pagan. Sold into slavery at 16, he converted to Christianity. Escaping six years later, he set off on a mission to convert others. After his death, March 17 AD 461, the Irish dedicated the day to him.

Much folklore surrounds the saint's history as a result of hundreds of years of storytelling - for instance, that he drove all the snakes from Ireland, when snakes were, in fact, never native to the country. The Irish have passed stories of his courage and generosity down through the generations, with a wee bit o' blarney.

While St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in Ireland for more than a thousand years, the custom is relatively new to America. The holiday was

first publicly celebrated in predominately Irish Boston in 1737, with the first parade taking place in New York in 1762, when Irish soldiers serving in the English military took to the streets.

The sixth Annual Los Angeles City St. Patrick's Day Parade will begin at 11:30 a.m. at Pershing Square and finishes at Main Street and the 101 freeway. The festivities in the square bounded by Fifth, Sixth, Hill and Olive streets will include live music and visits by mayoral runoff candidates Antonio Villaraigosa and James Hahn.

While thousands are expected to participate in the parade, some will be celebrating by losing their hair - literally. Each year hundreds of participants, mostly police and fire officials, shave their heads to raise funds for cancer research, courtesy of the St. Baldrick's Foundation

For more information on the festivities, call (888) 527-2757. For more information on the St. Baldrick's event, call 888-899-BALD, or visit [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org). It will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at the LAPD Police Academy at 1880 N. Academy Road

### ALBUM REVIEW

#### A Few Things You Should Know About Some New Music

BY WILLIAM HINES  
STAFF WRITER

Kings Of Leon - Aha Shake Heartbreak - RCA

The Mars Volta - Frances the Mute - Universal

Laziness would cause me to call Kings of Leon a southern, more hick version of the Strokes, but since they are such a good band - and their new album, "Aha Shake Heartbreak" is so worth checking out - I should elaborate.

The Kings (Caleb, Nathan, Jared and Matthew Followill, three brothers and a first cousin) found fame and fortune with their 2003 debut album, "Youth and Young Manhood." With their radio-ready sound and Calvin Klein-good looks, they went from being a backwoods preacher's sons to hanging out with the likes of Kate Moss and other top-shelf, jet-set celebrity groupies.

According to their bio, the experiences they wrote about on the first album were "about 30 percent truth and 70 percent wishful thinking," whereas on the new album it was about "90 percent truth and 10 percent wishful thinking - there's still that extra 10 percent." There are songs about relations with under-aged women ("Slow Night, So Long"), and erectile dysfunction (the up-tempo rocker "Soft").

The band is a tight little thing; Jared and Nathan keep the bass and the drums together in a quirky groove while Mathew plays fuzzy melodies and chords accompanied by Caleb's Iggy Pop-meets-Cat Stevens vocal style. The songs "Pistol of Fire" and "Razz" showcase the band deep in their groove, while "Milk" and "Rememo" show a softer, more delicate side. All of the instruments were played live without any overdubs, and it was recorded through the same mixing desk used on The Beatles' "Abbey Road."

At the other end of the new release spectrum is "Frances the Mute," the much-anticipated follow up to the Mars Volta's debut album, "Deloused in the Comatorium."

The excitement started to build a few months ago when the first single, "The Widow" started getting airplay. An amazing ballad reminiscent of Led Zeppelin's "Since I've Been Loving You," it features Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers on trumpet and is about the band's deceased soundman Jeremy Ward, who died of a drug overdose months before the first album was released. Unfortunately, "The Widow" is as close to their first album as the second one gets.

Like "Deloused," "Frances the Mute" is a concept album. "Frances" follows the story of an adopted man searching for his parents. The band got the idea

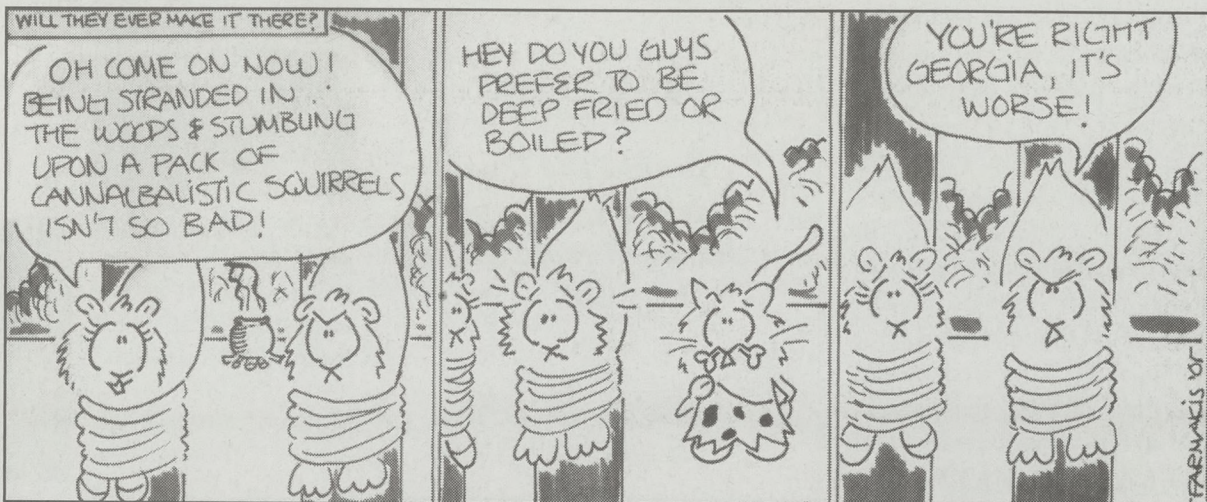
from a diary found in a car that the late Ward reclaimed when he worked as a repo man in El Paso, Texas. While there are some very rocking moments on the disc, at least half of the album is taken up with weird ambient sounds and synth-noise.

Where "Deloused" was a good mix of Led Zep and Yes, "Frances" is a blend of the most prog-rock indulgent moments of Rush, Pink Floyd and Queen, right down to four-part songs with such high-concept names as "Cygnus ...Vismund Cygnus" (which includes a very Rush-ian climax), and "Cassandra Gemini," a five-part piece that ends the album with the same segment that starts the album, so that if it was on loop, it would seamlessly play over and over again.

The 77-minute opus is slicker than its predecessor, which was produced by the king of organic music, Rick Rubin, and the record doesn't really start to stick with you until the third of fourth listen, when you have finally figured out where the grooves are.

While I'm not completely satisfied with my purchase, I still must tip my hat to the band - no one else in the mainstream pushes the envelope the way these guys do, and I'd still be first in line to get tickets to see the Volta live, so that might be my advice: whatever you think of the new disc, catch them in San Diego on April 22.

TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR



Visit our online edition at  
[www.lavalleyestar.com](http://www.lavalleyestar.com)  
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# NEWS

5

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# Job Fair

## Wednesday, March 16

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

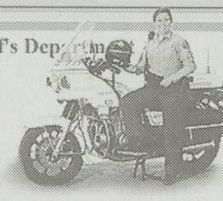
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# UNIVERSAL CITYWALK



## SPORTS

## Stars of the Week

## Softball

## Pauline Morquecho

She averaged .429, 3-7 batting, 2 RBIs

## Amanda Salazar

She averaged .462, 6-13 batting, 4 RBIs

## Lorena Arreguin

She averaged .462, 6-13 batting, 5 RBIs

## Carla Arreola

She averaged .455, 4-11 batting, 3 RBIs

## Baseball

## Raul Perez

6 hit, including a double  
Drove 9 runs

## Eddie Baeza

Gave 5 Strike Out, 1 hit during 2 innings.  
Hit 6, 4 runs including a double

## Matt Jordan

4 hits, 3 RBI

## Track &amp; Field

## Steve Bautista

He threw the Javelin 142 feet and ran the 400 meter at 53.4 seconds

## Marques Reyes

He vaulted 13 feet and 6 inches

## Gladys Nyoth

She ran a 28.15 200 meter, she jumped 33 feet and 9 inches in Triple Jump, and 15 feet and 8 inches in the Long Jump

## Jenny Portillo

She broke the school with nine feet in pole vaulted

## LAVC SCORES

Basbal vs. Pierce  
(W 15-12) 3/12/05  
Baseball Record: 9-9

Softball vs. Ventura  
(W 4-1) 3/12/05  
Softball Record: 13-3-1

## LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3/16/05  
No Scheduled Games

Thursday 3/17/05  
Softball vs Santa Monica 1:00 p.m.  
Baseball vs Citrus 2:00 p.m.

Friday 3/18/05  
Softball @ Fullerton 3:00 p.m.  
Swimming @ Canyons 2:30 p.m.

Saturday 3/19/05  
Baseball vs Citrus 1:00 p.m.  
Track & Field @ Northridge Invit. 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 3/20/05  
No Scheduled Games

Monday 3/21/05  
No Scheduled Games

Tuesday 3/22/05  
Softball @ Canyons 2:30 p.m.  
Baseball @ Fullerton Tournament

Wednesday 10/23/05  
No Scheduled Games

## PRO SCORES

## NBA

Washington def. LA Lakers  
(95-81)

Atlanta def. Detroit (114-108)

San Antonio def. New Orleans  
(94-92)

Dallas def. New Orleans  
(89-112)

Memphis def. Portland (104-83)

Miami def. Milwaukee (110-71)

Boston def. Charlotte (104-83)



For more sport photos  
and stories, please  
visit  
[www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com)

## Monarchs Baseball Bounces Back

■ The Monarchs shut down rival Mission College Eagles with 15-12 victory.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY  
SPORTS EDITOR

It might have taken until the sixth inning, but the Monarchs' bats came alive and scored 12 runs in the final few innings to give the team a 15-12 victory over Pierce College Saturday.

"We were waiting for the right moment to start hitting," said outfielder DJ Lewis. "Once we start scoring, no one can stop us."

While the defense didn't have its best day, the Monarchs' offense pulled the team out of the proverbial ditch.

Matt Jordan started the Monarchs' offense with his double in the sixth inning. Derk Walker followed Jordan's lead with his own double. The Monarchs added three runs in the sixth to cut

*"We were waiting for the right moment to start hitting."*

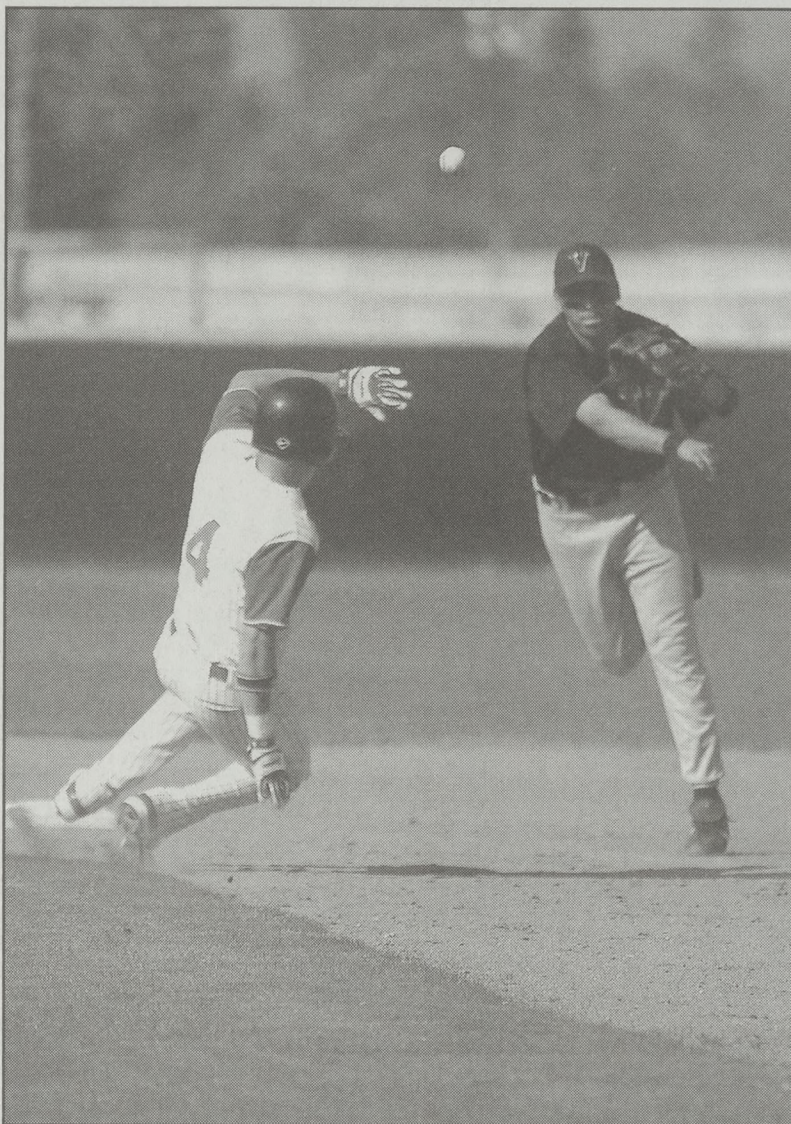
Pierce's lead to 8-6.

In the seventh, the Brahmas' pitcher allowed five walks and three hits, including Walker's second double. The five-run seventh inning gave the Monarchs an 11-10 lead.

"We were just waiting for the time to come," said infielder Robert Ninio. "We stepped up at the right moment when it came."

Lewis started the eighth inning with a double, which was followed by Raul Perez's double, giving the Monarchs its 15-12 lead.

During the last two innings,



SEEING DOUBLE - Valley Shortstop Miguel Gomez goes for the double play.

pitcher Eddie Baeza struck out five batters and only allowed two hits to preserve the win for the Monarchs.

"We had lots of confidence from the beginning," said Baeza. "We came out as a team and finished it as a team."

"This was a very typical

junior college [baseball] game," Head Coach Dave Mallas said. "We had some great hits today."

The Monarchs played Thursday at Citrus College. Their next home game is on Saturday March 19 against Citrus.

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

## Thunderous Start for The Lady Monarchs

■ The Lady Monarchs are having a tremendous season as they reach the mid point of their season with a 13-3-1 record.

BY SAM HAHN  
STAFF WRITER

Coming off a 4-1 victory over the Ventura Pirates last week the Lady Monarchs continue their winning streak as the team's overall record has improved to 13-13-1.

"We have great power and resilience," said third-year Head Coach Frankie Garcia. "This team has the ability to come back from anything and our strong attacking attitude has helped us tremendously this season."

*"We have some powerful bats on this team."*

Even with only five returning sophomores, the Lady Monarchs have been very successful throughout the season.

"A large part of our [current] success has to do with pitching and hitting," said Garcia. "We have some powerful bats on this team."

The sophomores are doing well and the freshmen on the team have yet to disappoint, contributing to the game and working hard, according to Garcia.

Playing with just three losses, the Lady Monarchs

look to make a bold statement this season, while developing a strong team spirit, which will add to their success.

*"We have great power and resilience."*

"If we can continue to play the way we've been playing and stick to our goal of playing every game better than the last, we have a shot at making it to the State championships," said Garcia, whose team narrowly missed the playoffs last season.

Building off the great amount of talent available this season is making a big difference, according to team member Lorena Arreguin.

"This team is amazing, because everyone is so reliable and helpful to one another," said freshman pitcher Pauline Morquecho who pitched a complete game in Tuesday's victory.

"Coach Garcia has really helped us out."

"We get together really well," said sophomore outfielder Amanda Salazar. "Sometimes conflict from outside can spill onto the playing field, but it seems like nothing can break us."

## New Football Staff Features NFL Veterans

■ Coach Sims promises bare-knuckles discipline.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Valley Head Football Coach Jimmy Sims announced his staff for next season and among his assistants are former NFL players from the Rams, Raiders, Cowboys and Bengals.

"I tried to focus on bringing a winning attitude," said Sims. "We haven't had that for years around here."

Joining former Cincinnati Bengals running back Dave Buchanan on the staff are Ron Jenkins (formerly of the Dallas Cowboys), Jan Deloche

(Oakland Raiders), Ron Foster (Oakland Raiders) and Cedric Richards (Los Angeles Rams).

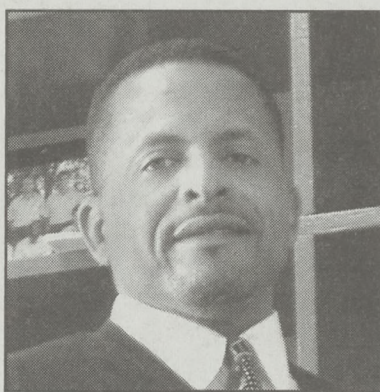
Coach Sims is excited about having men with pro football experience on his staff, he cautions, "Just because you played in NFL it doesn't make you a good coach."

Former coach Ron Ponciano was fired after last season's 3-7 record, having compiled a 12-28 record over four years. Some on the team took the news very hard and numerous players, including starting quarterback Brendon Doyle, chose not to return without Ponciano.

Sims and his staff want to bring discipline to the team, something they say has been in short supply. Sims said if one member of the team shows up late to practice, the entire squad goes through a "big three" workout that involves running and crawling right after practice.

"We want discipline in practice, school and meetings, while focusing on respecting each other," said Sims. "If discipline is present, the rest will come along the way."

Returning cornerback Jeoffery Tisdale said, "It's more serious this season. We are more



DAN VILASENOR / VALLEY STAR

Jimmy Sims - Head Football Coach is ready to begin.

like a team, we stretch as a team and work as a team."

## The Monarchs Football Coaching Staff 2005

Dave Buchanan - strength and conditioning

Napoleon Banks - running backs

Leon Criner, Ron Jenkins - defensive coordinators

Jan Deloche - wide-receiver

Tony Manning - offensive line

Ron Foster - defensive back

Julio Gramajo - defensive line

George Rosales - recruiting coordinator/tackles/tight ends

Ron Jenkins - offensive coordinator

Cedric Richards - linebackers

## Sulcer Is Sprinting His Way Out of Valley

■ Track and field star leaves with a full scholarship to a four-year college and a solid education.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Growing up on the violent streets of Los Angeles and trying to keep up with his school work wasn't easy for the 20-year-old Arthur Sulcer. But the light shone when he moved to West Hills to live with his sister.

"My sister is the one who helped me every step of the way," said Sulcer. "She took care of her own two kids and me at the same time."

Sulcer graduated from Valley College with a 3.4 GPA and numerous scholarships offers to run track. He earned those scholarships with personal bests in the 100 meters with a time of 10.63 and in the 200 meters with a time of 21.73. His dedication to school and his GPA was a big advantage when schools were offering scholarships. He will attend California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo this month.

"Being a black male, peo-

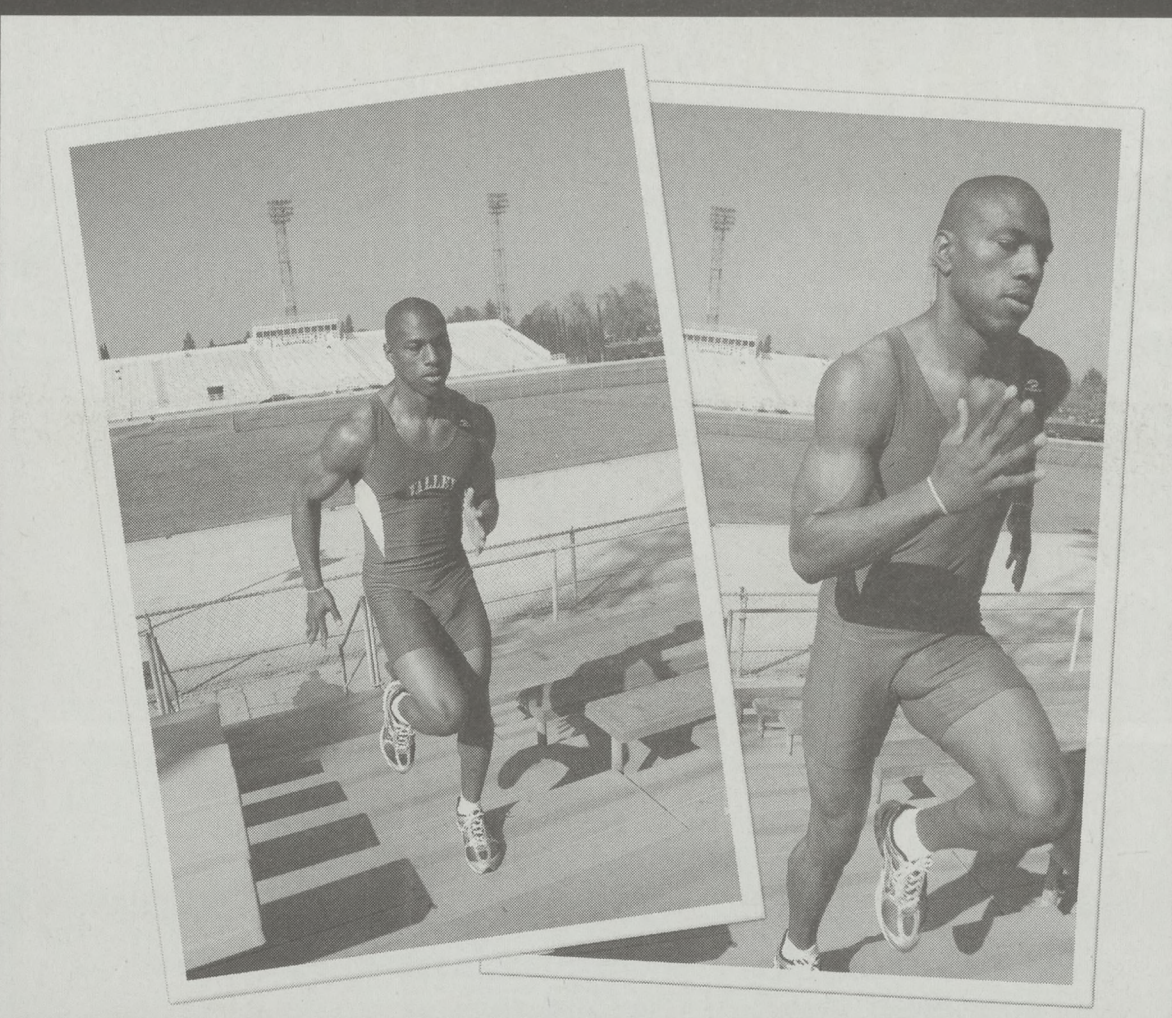
ple always stereotype you," said Sulcer. "The only way to fight that is by proving them wrong. I am a confident person and it shows in the classroom and on the track."

"He never missed a practice during the last two years that I have been coaching," said sprint and relay coach Yannick Allain. "He is very coachable."

"[Sulcer] got what he paid for," said sophomore Jon Knarreborg. "He worked for everything he got."

"Once we knew where he wanted to go, we started giving him [the Cal Poly] workout here at our dirt track," said Head Coach Francois Wolman. "His time will improve once he starts working out at their track with athletes in his level."

Sulcer will compete in his last at Cal State Northridge Invitational on March 19 as an independent before he heads off to start his season at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in early April.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

Arthur Sulcer - Valley runner headed north for higher education on scholarship from Cal Poly.



# NEWS

7

## 'Polls'

continued from page 1

students who voted for them. Maryann Gomez voted for Antonio Villaraigosa because, "He has more ideas to improve the city than the other candidates," said the 20-year-old sports medicine major. Other students voted based on personal appeal, like the 19-year-old child development major who voted for Hertzberg because he is from the Valley or the 21-year-old geography major who voted for Richard Alarcon because he didn't like any of the other candidates.

The results of the March 8 election revealed the same

two candidates who competed in 2001, Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa and incumbent Mayor James Hahn, will be vying for the city's top job in the May 8 runoff election. The unofficial results from city election officials show that the top three candidates came away with 79 percent of the votes, with Villaraigosa on top with 33 percent. Hahn and Bob Hertzberg finished second with 24 percent and third with 22 percent, respectively.

When Hahn won over Villaraigosa in June 2001, the total votes cast totaled a paltry 29.5 percent of registered voters. If history is any indication, the voter turnout for the May runoff may be as unremark-

able as the primary election.

It is hard to imagine that one could find neither the time nor motivation to vote with options available such as permanent absentee voting, provisional ballots and polling places open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Perhaps the solution to the pervasive political apathy on campus might be to show students that the decisions made by these elections really do affect them, according to Students Active Political Affairs President Anitra Wetzel.

"The underlying problem is that [students] don't realize that voting is important and that they can make a difference," said Wetzel.

## 'Riot'

continued from page 1

because she was Hispanic.

"Fights happen a lot. It gets to the point where you get sick of it," she said. This was the second racially charged fight at the school in two weeks.

"The [fight] that broke out two weeks ago was on a much smaller scale. A counselor was hit with a trash can though," said Grant freshman Carla Lineras.

Lineras' sister, Jessica, a senior, argued that the previous fight should have served as a pre-cursor to Grant administrators. She hopes that this incident will push them to take action.

"We need more security on campus. They also need to replace all the metal trash cans with plastic."

## 'Residents'

continued from page 1

going to school.

Until 2002, foreign students faced higher non-resident fees.

Assembly Bill 540 provides non-resident tuition exemptions for students who attended high school in California for three or

more years and California high school graduates.

Valley's Financial Aid Director Barbara Ralston suggests that non-resident students check out their financial aid options.

Ralston said "It's not too late for the current 2004-2005 academic year and the time to apply for 2005-2006 is now."

## 'ASU'

continued from page 1

to keep that promise.

Bagramian's election in 2004 spurred charges of racially biased voting, although nobody contested the legitimacy of his win. His victory was considered an upset over long-time ASU member and heavy favorite Igor Kagan.

Nelli Martirosyan was Bagramian's lone supporter Tuesday and voted against her fellow board members. Martirosyan attacked Bagramian's opponents by calling them "unprofessional."

The Tuesday meeting in Campus Center included heated exchanges between Bagramian and his opponents. At one point Bagramian slammed the gavel to calm the crowd. In the middle of the meeting, an emotional Chase Knowles abruptly resigned from her parliamentarian position.

"I love the ASU," said Knowles. "The ASU is very supportive and welcoming."

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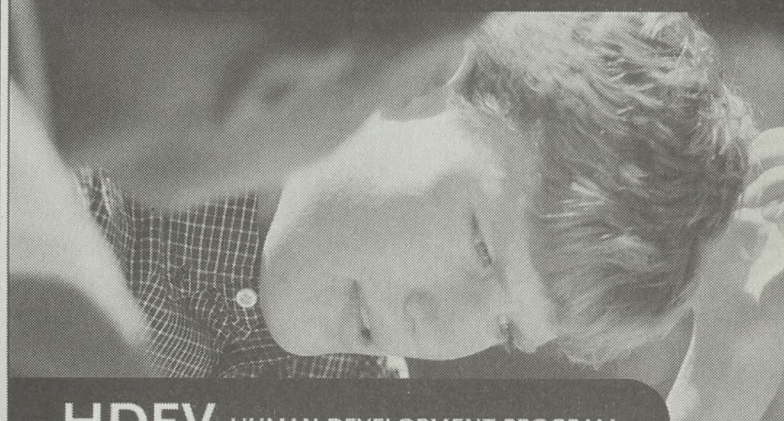
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## teaching tip #43

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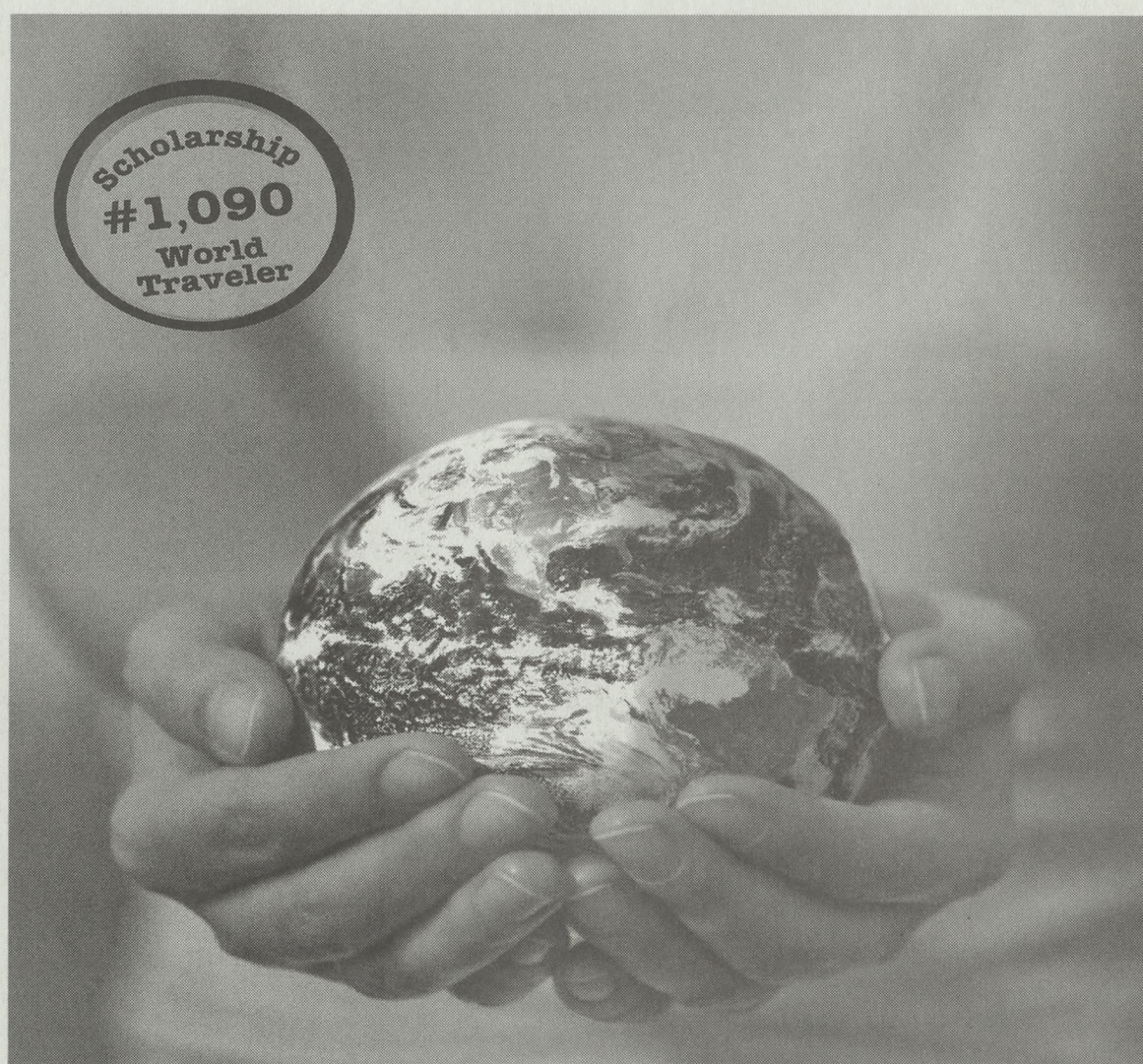


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# GALLERY



**SOCIAL RHYTHM** - Dance professor Geordie Wright leads the social dance class in a review of salsa steps.

CYNTHIA PERRY / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

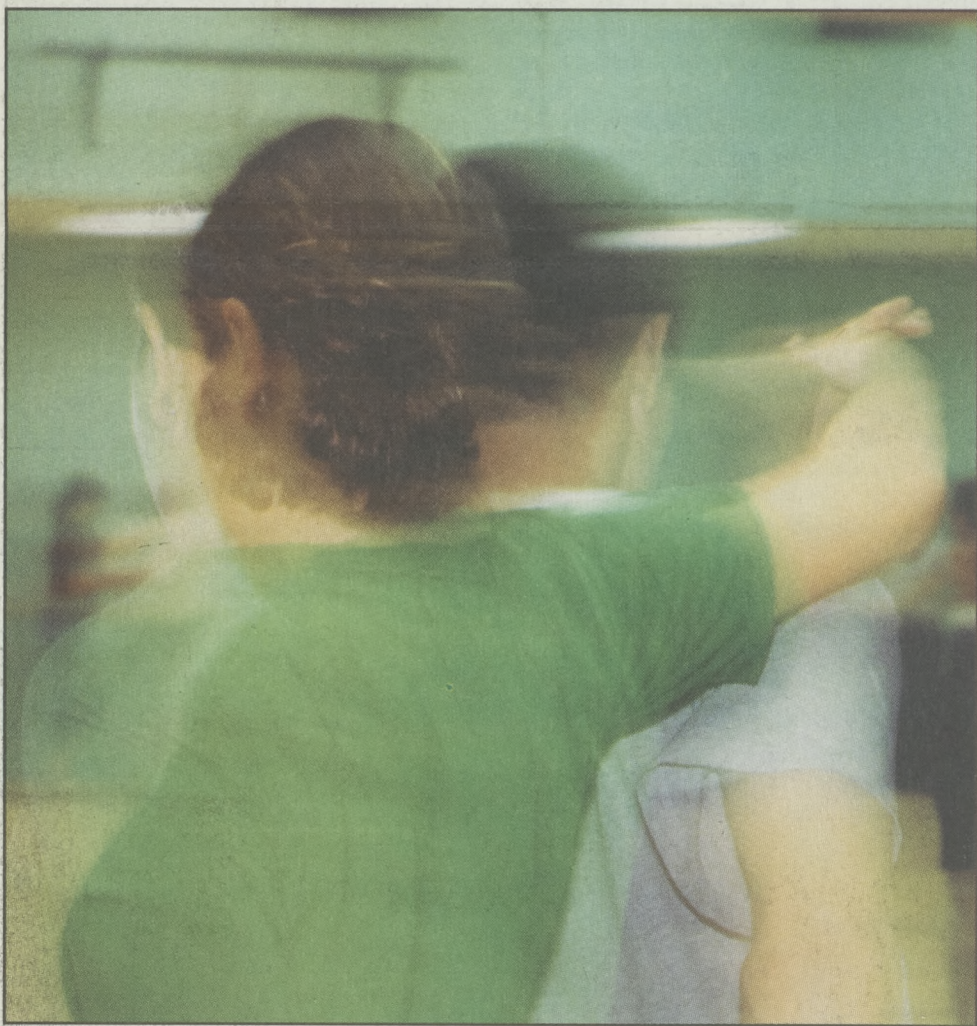
## Salsa Muy Picante!

Students Spice Up  
Dance Moves

Photos By  
Cynthia Perry

Text by  
LaGina Phillips

Layout by  
Greg Burmann



Far from the tension and pressure of academic classes, social dance offers students an oasis of stress-relieving fun in the form of Latin dance.

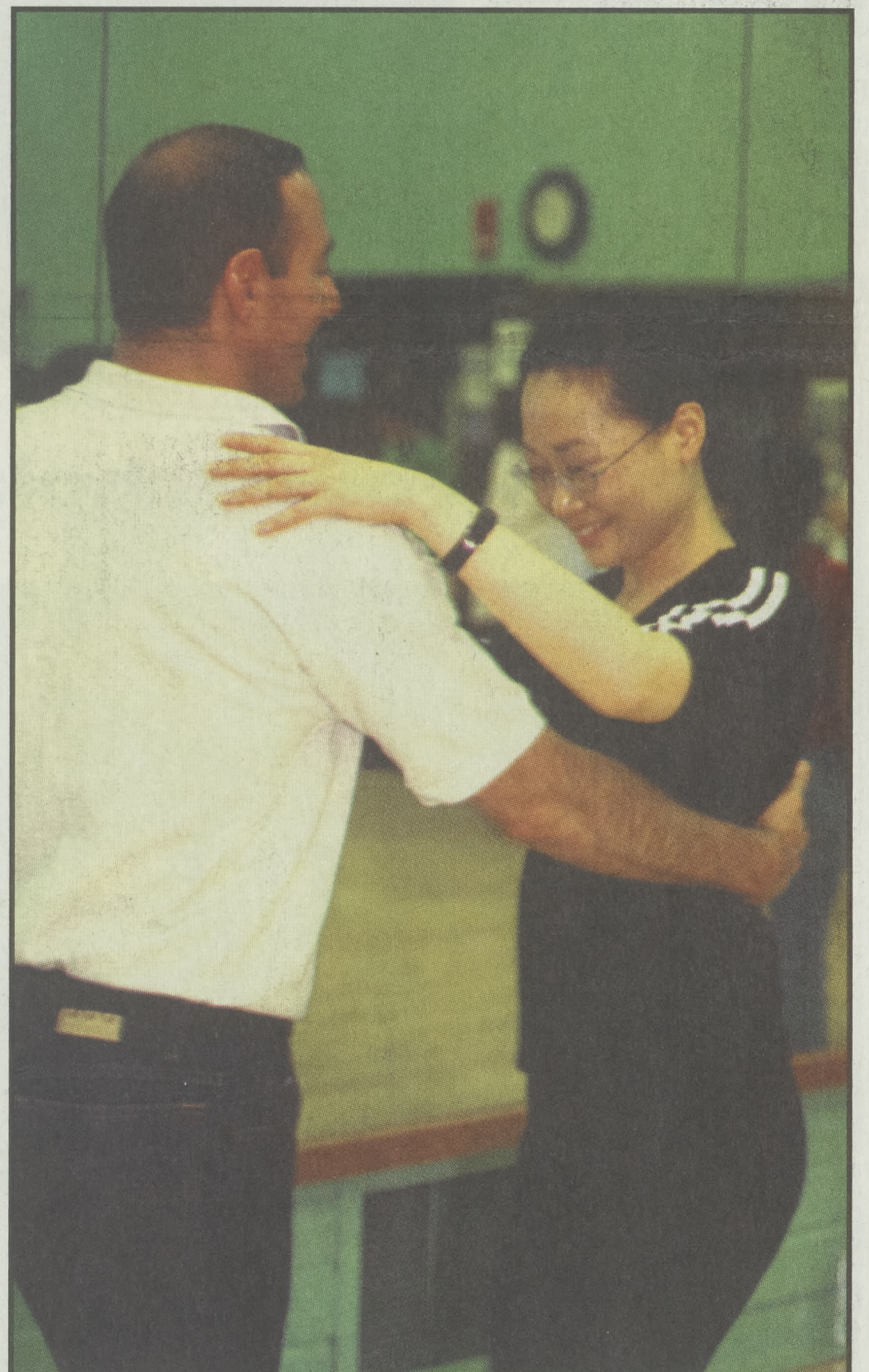
The class, which emphasizes salsa, is always full, according to dance professor Geordie Wright.

Students range from youthful to retired and all enjoy the steps and missteps that lead to occasional pinched toes and hilarity.

Men considering the class should note that there are twice as many women as men in the class, making men a valued commodity. Women move from one male partner to the next after mastering each technique.

CYNTHIA PERRY / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

**ALL A BLUR** - Students lose themselves in the movement.



CYNTHIA PERRY / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

**UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE** - Steve Taylor and Lauren Lee dance in rhythm perfectly to a Latin beat.



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**KICKING' IT UP** - Jose Ramirez and Eilish Morales try some challenging steps.



CYNTHIA PERRY / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

**FUNNY BUSINESS** - Business major Reina Sanchez shares a laugh with her partner.